

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9317

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FOR THE SECRETARY FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR EG US

SUBJECT: MEETING WITH FAHMY

1. I MET WITH FAHMY FOR ABOUT AN HOUR TODAY. TO PUT IT MILDLY, HE WAS IN ONE OF HIS LESS MELLOW MOODS AND DELIVERED LONG MONOLGUE ABOUT USG "UNRELIABILITY." HE CHARGED CONGRESS IS HAMSTRINGING USG FROM ACTING AS A SUPER POWER. IN THE PROCESS, SOVIETS ARE BEING GIVEN FREE REIN IN AFRICA AND ELSEWHERE. IT IS NOT ONLY A QUESTION OF THE ARAB-ISRAELI PROBLEM, BUT AFRICA IS ALSO GOING TO POT AS SOVIETS GAIN MORE INFLUENCE THERE. HE CITED SEVERAL INSTANCES IN SUPPORT OF HIS CASE.

2. TUNISIA: ALLUDING TO FONMIN CHATTI'S RECENT VISIT TO EGYPT AND TO TUNISIAN AMBASSADOR'S CALL OF TWO DAYS AGO, FAHMY CLAIMED GOT IS DEEPLY WORRIED ABOUT QADHAAFI AND THE ALGERIANS. QADHAAFI RECENTLY GAVE BOUMEDIENNE \$200 MILLION EVEN THOUGH LIBYA IS CURRENTLY SUFFERING A LIQUIDITY PROBLEM. LIBYA ALSO ALLEGEDLY PROVIDED ALGERIA WITH 120 PLANES, INCLUDING 50 MIRAGES AND SOME SOVIET SUPPLIED MIGS. TUNISIANS ARE WORRIED THAT THEY ARE BEING SANDWICHED BETWEEN LIBYA AND ALGERIA. FAHMY SUGGESTED THAT US SEND A DESTROYER ON A VISIT TO TUNIS AND REGULARIZE SUCH NAVAL VISITS THERE. PERHAPS SIXTH FLEET FLAGSHIP

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MIGHT EVEN BE SENT TO SHOW AMERICAN INTEREST IN

TUNISIA'S INTEGRITY. FRENCH WILLING PROVIDE SOME ARMS, BUT ARE SLOW. FAHMY CLAIMED TUNISIAN FONMIN HAD ASKED FAHMY TO RAISE SUBJECT WITH US.

3. MOROCCO: LIBYAN AID TO ALGERIA, FAHMY CHARGED, IS SOVIET-INSPIRED. ALGERIANS ARE REACTING TO HASSAN'S TAKEOVER OF THE SAHARA. MOROCCO MUST BE HELPED TO COPE WITH THIS SOVIET-INSPIRED ALGERIAN/LIBYAN PRESSURE. FRENCH HAVE AGREED TO PROVIDE SOME ARMAMENTS TO ALGERIA, BUT ARE LIKELY TO BE SLOW. HE URGED THAT USG GIVE ALL POSSIBLE SUPPORT TO MOROCCO IN CURRENT CONFRONTATION WITH ALGERIA.

4. MAURITANIA: ACCORDING TO FAHMY, QADHAAFI HAD RECENTLY TOLD OUDH DADDAH THAT THERE WOULD SHORTLY BE A GREATER PHYSICAL SOVIET PRESENCE IN SAHARA. THIS HAD BEEN INTENDED AS A DIRECT LIBYAN THREAT AGAINST MAURITANIA.

5. SOMALIA/ETHIOPIA: SOMALIA, ACCORDING TO FAHMY, IS NOW PRESSING FOR A FEDERATION WITH ETHIOPIA. THIS FAHMY ALSO ATTRIBUTED TO SOVIET URGING. ETHIOPIAN DELEGATION, LED BY FONMIN, IS EXPECTED IN EGYPT SHORTLY TO DISCUSS CURRENT SOMALI CAMPAIGN.

6. KNOWING YOU WILL SHORTLY LEAVE FOR MOSCOW, FAHMY EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT YOU WILL MAKE STRONG REPRESENTATIONS TO THE SOVIETS ABOUT CEASING THEIR UNHELPFUL ACTIVITIES IN NORTH AFRICA AND THE HORN OF AFRICA AS WELL AS IN ANGOLA. UNLESS SOVIETS CAN BE PERSUADED TO DESIST FROM SUPPLYING ARMS AND MONEY TO ELEMENTS SEEKING TO DESTABILIZE AFRICA, AFRICAN SITUATION WILL STEADILY DETERIORATE. IT IS UP TO USG, FAHMY SNORTED, TO HELP ITS FRIENDS IN AFRICA BY ALL POSSIBLE MEANS.
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